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Economic and Social Council

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Item 31 of the preliminary list*

Culture of peace

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 1998
Item 7 (f) of the provisional agenda**

Coordination, programme and other questions: International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000

Letter dated 16 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an appeal for the children of the world addressed to the Heads of State of all States Members of the United Nations by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, issued in May 1997.

I would like to request you to arrange to have the present letter and the text of the appeal, with signatures of the Laureates, circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 31 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council, under item 7 (f) of the provisional agenda of the substantive session of 1998.

(*Signed*) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

* A/53/50.
** E/1998/100.

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Annex

Appeal for the children of the world addressed to the Heads of State of all States Members of the United Nations by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

Today, in every single country throughout the world, there are many children silently suffering the effects and consequences of violence.

This violence takes many different forms : between children on streets, at school, in family life and in the community. There is physical violence, psychological violence, socio-economic violence, environmental violence and political violence. Many children - too many children - live a "culture of violence".

We wish to contribute to reduce their suffering. We believe that each child can discover, by himself, that violence is not inevitable. We can offer hope, not only to the children of the world, but to all of humanity, by beginning to create, and build, a new "Culture of Non-Violence".

For this reason, we address this solemn appeal to all Heads of States, of all member countries of the General Assembly of the United Nations, for the U.N. General Assembly to declare:

• *That the first decade of the new millennium,* ***the years 2000-2010, be declared the "Decade for a Culture of Non-Violence".***

• *That at the start of the decade* ***the year 2000 be declared the "Year of Education for Non-Violence".***

• *That non-violence be taught at every level in our societies during this decade, to make the children of the world aware of the real, practical meaning and benefits of non-violence in their daily lives, in order to reduce the violence, and consequent suffering, perpetrated against them and humanity in general.*

Together, we can build a new culture of non-violence for humankind which will give hope to all humanity, and in particular, to the children of our world.

With deepest respect,

The Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

Signatories:

1980 ADOLFO PEREZ ESQUIVEL

1991 AUNG SAN SUU KYI

1977 BETTY WILLIAMS

1996 CARLOS FELIPE XIMENES BELO

1989 DALAI LAMA

1984 DESMOND MPILO TUTU

1986 ELIE WIESEL

1993 FREDERIK DE KLERK

1996 JOSE RAMOS HORTA
Nobel Peace Laureate '96

1995 JOSEPH ROTBLAT

1983 LECH WALESA

1977 MAIREAD CORRIGAN-MAGUIRE

1990 MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

1979 MOTHER TERESA

1993 NELSON MANDELA

1970 NORMAN BORLAUG

1987 OSCAR ARIAS SANCHEZ

1994 SHIMON PEREZ

1965 UNICEF

1994 YASSER ARAFAT